

Application No.: 10/783,304
Docket No.: UC0412USNA

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Remarks

Status of the Application

Claims 1-25 and new claim 38 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 10, 18 and 22 are amended, and claim 38 is added, without introducing new matter. Claim 1 is amended simply to insert a semicolon in the phrase "n is an integer" which Applicants believe was inadvertently deleted in a previous amendment. The other claim amendments and new claim are described in more detail below.

Response to Amendment

The Office Action suggests that the last phrase in independent claims 1, 8 and 17, "wherein the compound bears at least one crosslinkable group" is unnecessary because the substituent R^1 "is required" to have a crosslinkable group. This, in fact, is not correct. The operative language, taken from claim 1, is:

R^1 is selected from aryl, heteroaryl, fluoroaryl substituted with 1 or more fluorine atoms, fluoroheteroaryl substituted with 1 or more fluorine atoms, and a crosslinkable group attached to aryl, heteroaryl, fluoroaryl, or fluoroheteroaryl substituted with 1 or more fluorine atoms;

indicating that R^1 can be aryl, heteroaryl, fluoroaryl substituted with one or more F atoms or fluoroheteroaryl substituted with 1 or more F atoms, or any of those four with a crosslinkable substituent. Therefore, the crosslinkable group in the definition of R^1 is optional, so the proviso that the compound must bear at least one crosslinkable group is, in fact, required, and is not redundant.

Anticipation by Hirose Not Established

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 17-20, 23 and 25 were rejected as anticipated by the Hirose reference (JP 2004030942 A2, published January 29, 2004). Hirose does not, however, anticipate the claims. In the structures from Hirose shown in the Office Action, RN 651048-27-0 and RN 651048-28-1, the styryl or acetylenic carbons are bound directly to the N atom. By contrast, in embodiments of the claimed compounds, the aryl or heteroaryl (whether or not fluorinated) is

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bound to the N atom, including species in which the aryl or heteroaryl has a crosslinkable group. In those embodiments where the crosslinkable group may be directly attached to the N atom, the crosslinkable group is not vinyl (see the application specification at page 5, lines 23-25, for example). Applicants will amend the claims to include a proviso to this effect, if required, based on the cited portion of the specification. In addition, the Office Action has not established that the styryl substituent in Hirose, and particularly the ethynylbenzene substituent, is polymerizable (crosslinkable) as shown in that reference. Nothing in the reference abstract translation indicates that these groups (whether styryl or ethynylbenzene) are situated to be crosslinkable in the positions shown. Accordingly, the claims show different structures and exclude a vinyl substituent directly bound to a N atom, and therefore, Hirose does not anticipate the claims. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 22, New Claim 38 Are Definite

Amended claim 22 is drawn to a composition comprising a copolymer obtained by copolymerizing at least one compound of each of claims 1 and claim 8. "Composition" is defined in the specification at page 31, lines 17-21, and further support exists in the specification at page 5, lines 3-6 and page 8, lines 5-9. Applicants submit that this claim is in acceptable form. New claim 38 specifies a copolymer comprising at least one compound of each of claims 1 and 8.

Objections Noted

Applicants thank the Examiner for the list of claim objections. Claims 2, 10 and 18 have been amended to delete H as a substituent for the aromatic groups. The objections to claims 1, 8 and 17 have been addressed above. Finally, claims 3, 5 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability, however, amendments to these claims will respectfully be held in abeyance pending the Office's response to remarks presented above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

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Allowed Claims

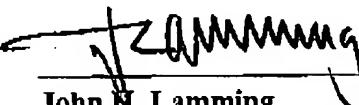
Claims 9, 11-16, and 24 are allowed. Applicants wish to express their gratitude for the advice concerning the allowed subject matter.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the objections and rejections should not be reapplied to the pending claims. Applicants further submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit a notice of allowance for claims 1-25, and 38.

Should the Examiner have questions about the application or the contents of this paper, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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